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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/819,380 | 03/28/2001 | Takashi Igarashi | 01166/LH | 3748 |

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EXAMINER

GARCIA, GABRIEL I

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/819,380

Applicant(s)

IGARASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Gabriel I Garcia

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/28/2002
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Part III DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-13 are pending in this application.

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371[®] of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this

application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shih et al. (6,674,923).

With regard to claim 1, Shih et al. teaches a network system for providing a print-service (e.g. fig. 14), in which a printing process is conducted in response to print-order information transmitted from a customer (96,98,100 or 102), comprising: a first server (73) for conducting said printing process based on said print-order information transmitted from said customer, said first server being installed in each of laboratories (see fig. 14) and having a printer (86,84,or 88) being capable of producing prints; and second server (90 or 104) for providing said print-service (e.g. images stored in memory 94) to said customer through said network system (75), said second server receiving least a part of said print-order information (e.g. col. 7, line 22 thru col. 8, line 24) transmitted from a terminal device (102 or 98) located at a site of said customer and having an information-storing section to store said print-order information; wherein, when said second server (90 or 104) receives said print-order information transmitted from said terminal device located at said site of

said customer, said second server stores said print-order information in said information-storing section without transmitting the received information said first server (e.g. col. 7, line 22 thru col. 8, line 24), and when said first server requests said second server to transmit said print-order information, said second server transmits said print-order information, stored in said information-storing section, to said first server, and further, said first server conducts said printing process based on said print-order information received from said second server (e.g. col. 7, line 22 thru col. 8, line 24, the data stored in memory 94 is used to process the submitted print request by the photofinishing lab, see fig. 14).

With regard to claim 2, Shih et al. teaches wherein said first server (73) can receive said print-order information transmitted from said terminal device located at said site of said customer (96,98,100 or 102) and said second server (90 or 104) can store image-data in said information-storing section, and, based on said print-order information transmitted from said terminal device located at said site of said customer, said first server (73) requests said second server to transmit said image-data corresponding to said print-order information, and said first server conducts said printing process based on said print-order information and said image-data transmitted from said second

server (e.g. col. 7, line 22 thru col. 8, line 24, the data stored in memory 94 is used to process the submitted print request by the photofinishing lab, see fig. 14).

With regard to claim 3, Shih et al. teaches wherein identification-information (see fig. 10) said customer can be registered in either said first server or said second server (see col. 3, line 56 thru col. 4, line 20), and said terminal device located at said site of said customer can be automatically connected to said first server based on said identification-information registered (cols. 7 and 8).

With regard to claim 4, Shih et al. teaches wherein said first server transmits printing-history data to said second server at a predetermined timing, and said second server stores said printing-history data of said first server as a database (e.g. col. 41-43).

With regard to claim 5, Shih et al. teaches wherein said first server stores first template data (e.g. col. 3, lines 49-66, order form is equivalent to the first template).

With regard to claim 6, Shih et al. teaches wherein said second server stores second template data (reads on the form to order stored data), a data amount of which is less than that of said first template data (e.g. col. 3, line 60 thru col. 4, line 25).

With regard to claims 7-13, the limitations of claims 7-13 are covered by the limitations of claims 1-4 above; Shih et al. teaches the server is installed in the laboratory (see fig. 14).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

McIntyre et al. (6,587,839) teaches a method for notifying a consumer that the photofinishing order is ready and for controlling inventory of photofinishing orders in a business.

Shiota (6,169,596) teaches a photo finishing system.

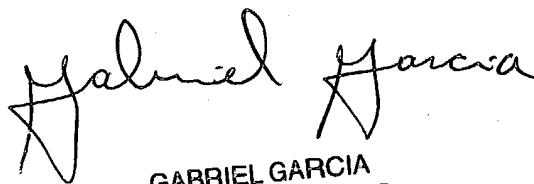
Enomoto et al. (5,974,401) teaches a digital order and delivery method and system.

Yamasaki (5,477,353) teaches a photographic image processing system having laboratory unit for processing film and photographer unit for supplying printing information.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Gabriel I. Garcia** whose telephone number is (703) 305-8751. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Gabriel I. Garcia
Primary Examiner
October 15, 2004


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER